

**Key Messages for Acting Deputy Administrator Stan Meiburg  
Gold King Mine  
August 17, 2015 (Michelle Prizadeh will update you daily on the latest)**

- The incident at Gold King Mine was extremely unfortunate. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, Gold King Mine opened while an EPA contractor was investigating the source of a wastewater leak.
- EPA is coordinating with state and local authorities to take all appropriate actions, including providing water to affected communities and offering free testing of private wells.
- Administrator McCarthy was in Colorado and New Mexico last week overseeing response efforts.
- On August 12, EPA released data from Aug. 5-9, showing that water quality for the Animas River from the Silverton, Colo. area to the Durango municipal water intake **has returned to pre-event water quality levels**.
- Regarding irrigation, EPA issued a \$500,000 work assignment last week for the delivery of water for irrigation and livestock in New Mexico. We understand the importance of the irrigation systems and are providing data to local jurisdictions to make informed decisions.
- EPA is planning a containment pond for the water continuing to slowly leak from Gold King Mine to protect the surrounding areas from pollution. We will continue to monitor, analyze and share data for downstream river segments as it becomes available.